Rs. 396.36 lakhs has already been released. The second instalment of Rs. 396.36 lakhs would be released on receipt of complete utilisation certificate for an amount of Rs. 846.36 lakhs released during the previous financial year, 1999-2000. The same is still awaited from the State Government.

Maintenance of permanent register to check infiltration

2532. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permanent register is being maintained for the citizens of the country to check infiltration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) No, sir. However, a proposal for compulsory registration of all citizens in the country and issuing them Multi-Purpose National Identity Cards (MNICs) has been under consideration in this Ministry.

Law to tackle refugee problem

2533. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "No law to tackle refugee problem" as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 31st July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether population of refugees is increasing in the country and in the absence of any law, Government are finding it difficult to deal with the problem; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to enact a law to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there has been some increase in the number of refugees, there is no major difficulty in dealing with the refugees as the existing laws are considedred, by and large, adequate; and

(d) Does not arise.

Strengthening legal framework for protection of human rights

2534. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that there is a need to strengthen further the legal framework for protection of human rights;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act;

(c) whether Justice Ahmadi Committee report regarding Human Rights Act has been received;

(d) if so, whether any suggestions have been accepted and implemented; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent a proposal suggesting amendment in various sections of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. While framing the proposal, NHRC has taken into consideration the recommendations of the Justice Ahmadi Committee set up by NHRC for the purpose. The proposal is being examined by the Government.